

# Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and Bay Delta Conservation Plan

*State of California (State) law, enacted through the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 and codified in Sections 9600 through 9625 of the California Water Code, requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to prepare the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). The CVFPP proposes a State Systemwide Investment Approach for sustainable, integrated flood management in areas currently protected by facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC).*

*Each fact sheet in the CVFPP Related Project Series provides a brief summary of the subject effort and its relationship to the CVFPP.*

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a long-term multi-purpose plan that includes a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), a water management improvement plan, and other components for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). It is being developed pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. The BDCP is intended to help meet California's goal for Delta management to restore and protect water supply, water quality, and ecosystem health through the following:



- ◆ New and/or redesigned water conveyance and operation of the State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP)
- ◆ Habitat restoration of native fish, wildlife, and plant habitats within the Delta
- ◆ Addressing other ecological stressors to covered aquatic species in the Delta

As a joint HCP and NCCP, the BDCP is designed to meet the requirements of both State and federal endangered species laws and provide the basis for DWR and State Water Contractors to obtain take authorizations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act and from the California Department of Fish and Game under Section 2835 of the California Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act, and potentially under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act. The period of the permit sought under the BDCP is over the next 50 years.

The BDCP Area (Plan Area) includes the legal Delta, the Suisun Marsh, and the Yolo Bypass. The BDCP is intended to provide the basis for the issuance of regu-

latory authorizations for a broad range of ongoing and anticipated covered activities in the Plan Area that are associated with the operations of the SWP and CVP. The covered activities also include actions that will be undertaken by nonfederal parties, primarily relate to the development and operation of SWP water conveyance infrastructure and conservation measures that will occur within the Plan Area. Associated federal actions comprise those activities that are authorized, funded, or carried out by Reclamation within the Plan Area and relate to the operation of the CVP's Delta facilities.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being prepared by DWR; the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. The public draft BDCP and its EIR/EIS are scheduled for release in June 2012, and the final BDCP and its EIR/EIS are expected in December 2012. More information on the BDCP is available at <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/>.

## Bay Delta Conservation Plan Conservation Strategy

The BDCP sets out a comprehensive long-term conservation strategy for the Delta designed to restore and protect ecosystem health, water supply, and water quality within a stable regulatory framework. The conservation strategy includes biological goals and objectives; conservation measures; avoidance and minimization measures; and a monitoring, research, and adaptive management program. With the exception of water facilities and operations, the proposed conservation measures require additional project-specific studies and environmental review. Potential habitat restora-

tion and enhancement types include increasing access to seasonal floodplains by setting back levees, selective flooding of islands, improving channel configurations, and increasing the frequency and duration of access to flood control bypasses.

### Relationship to Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

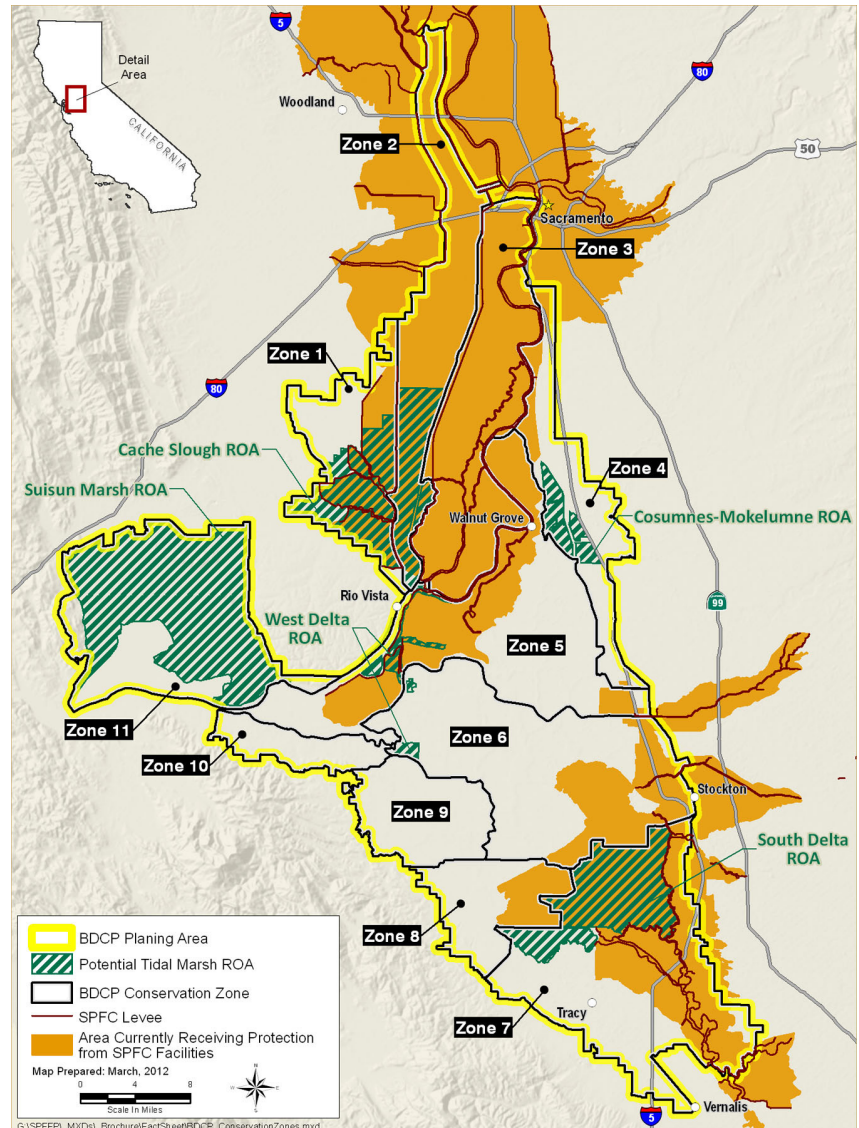
The CVFPP focuses on the areas currently receiving protection from SPFC facilities. While flood management is not within the scope of the BDCP, at least two proposed conservation measures directly relate to flood management: (1) the Yolo Bypass Fisheries Enhancement seeks to improve upstream and downstream fish passage through the bypass, and (2) Seasonally Inundated Floodplain Restoration calls for greater duration of flows along the Yolo Bypass. The Yolo Bypass is a major SPFC facility for alleviating potential flood risk in the Sacramento River Basin, and is within both the Plan Area and CVFPP's SPFC Planning Area.

The CVFPP recommended approach – known as the State Systemwide Investment Approach – proposes an expansion of the Yolo Bypass to increase its ability to handle peak flows during large flood events. This proposed expansion could be accomplished by setting back levees upstream from Rio Vista and widening the Fremont Weir. This expansion presents opportunities to improve fish passage at SPFC facilities, improve fish access to upstream aquatic habitat, and facilitate natural flow attenuation.

The State will also consider a new bypass in the south Delta. This could be an expansion of Paradise Cut or through other routes in the vicinity, including levee construction, gate structure or weir, and other habitat components and agricultural easements.

### Implementation Considerations

Implementation of many CVFPP proposed elements requires additional project-level study and coordination with local, other State, and federal governments and agencies, and local major programs and projects. For example, the proposed Yolo Bypass expansion would need to be implemented in coordination with



CVFPP's SPFC Planning Area and Levees and BDCP Conservation Zones in Plan Area

the CVP and SWP Long-term Operations Criteria and Plan Biological Opinion, BDCP, and Yolo County Natural Heritage Program. The implementation is also within the context of CVFPP's primary goal to improve flood management in SPFC Planning Area by considering urban level of flood protection against a 200-year (0.5% annual chance) flood for urban and urbanizing areas, structural and nonstructural options for protecting small communities from a 100-year (1% annual chance) flood, and rural-agricultural flood protection options, with a focus on integrated projects that achieve multiple benefits and help preserve the rural-agricultural lands from urban development.